

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: N/A)
Examiner: N/A)
Applicant(s): Orval A. Opperthauser) **PRELIMINARY**
Serial No.: N/A) **AMENDMENT**
Filing Date:)
Title: Pipe Insulation Coupling)

)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1-18 and add the following new claims:

19. A pipe insulation coupling for coupling adjacent ends of elongated pipe insulation tubing surrounding a tubular pipe comprising:
an elongated body extending along a longitudinal axis between a first end and a second end, said elongated body including a first generally C-shaped clam shell portion and a second generally C-shaped clam shell portion; said first and second clam shell portions defining a cylindrical outer tube wall extending along said longitudinal axis between said first and second ends, a cylindrical

inner tube wall spaced inwardly from and generally parallel to said outer tube wall and extending along said longitudinal axis between said first end and said second end, and a planar wall positioned transverse to said longitudinal axis for interconnecting said outer tube wall and said inner tube wall midway between said first and second ends and adapted to abut the adjacent ends of the pipe insulation tubing; and

at least one hinge interconnecting said first clam shell portion and said second clam shell portion longitudinally between said first and second ends for pivoting said clam shell portions from an open position adapted to receive the pipe and pipe insulation tubing and a closed position coupled about the pipe and adjacent ends of the pipe insulation tubing.

20. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 19 wherein said inner tube and said outer tube wall define an elongated channel therebetween adapted to receive the adjacent ends of the pipe insulation tubing.

21. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 20 wherein said hinge includes a first slot extending transverse to said longitudinal axis from said inner tube wall through said planar wall to said outer tube wall.

22. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 21 wherein said hinge further includes second slot formed in said planar wall adjacent and generally parallel to said outer tube wall and

intersecting with said first slot to thereby isolate an elongated arcuate section of said outer tube wall providing a rolling hinge between said first and second clam shell portions.

23. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 22 further including a opening spaced radially from said hinge for separating said first and second clam shell portion and defining facing ends therebetween.

24. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 23 wherein said opening extends transversely through said inner tube wall, said outer tube wall and said planar wall.

25. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 24 further including a fracturable web portion extending across said opening for interconnecting said facing ends of said first and second clam portions.

26. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 25 wherein said fracturable web portion extends between and interconnects said facing ends of said outer tube wall between said first and second clam portions.

27. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 26 further including a plurality of radially spaced apart hinges for interconnecting portions of said first clam shell with portions of said second clam shell longitudinally between said first and second ends for pivoting said clam shell portions

from an open position adapted to receive the pipe and pipe insulation tubing and a closed position coupled about the pipe and adjacent ends of the pipe insulation tubing.

28. A pipe insulation coupling as set forth in claim 27 wherein said plurality of hinges separate said coupling into a plurality of portions separating said outer tube wall, said inner tube wall and said planar wall.

REMARKS

The new claims are directed toward at least one hinge interconnecting the first and second clam shell portion for pivoting the clam shell portions from an open position adapted to receive the pipe and pipe insulation tubing and a closed position coupled about the pipe and adjacent ends of the pipe insulation tubing.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin W. Asher
Registration No. 41,590

Clark Hill P.L.C.
500 Woodward Ave., Suite 3500
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-8665

Date:

Attorney Docket No. 19354.087525